



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2005

Senator John Danforth Backs Stem Cell Research

Dear Colleague:

We would like to draw your attention to an excerpt from the opinion column written by former Senator John Danforth in the New York Times on March 30, 2005.

In this column, Senator Danforth, a pro-life Republican, expresses his support for embryonic stem cell research, saying:

"It is not evident to many of us that cells in a petri dish are equivalent to identifiable people suffering from terrible diseases. I am and always have been pro-life. But the only explanation for legislators comparing cells in a petri dish to babies in the womb is the extension of religious doctrine into statutory law."

(To view the complete Op-Ed, see <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/30/opinion/30danforth.html>)

We have been leading the effort to improve the lives of those who suffer from the most debilitating diseases -- juvenile diabetes, Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's Disease, cancer and many more -- by working to expand the current federal embryonic stem cell policy. By using stem cells from excess embryos created through the in vitro fertilization process, which are going to be discarded and with the parent's written consent, scientists believe they will be able to create treatments and maybe one day cures for chronic diseases. Instead of these embryos being discarded as medical waste, we strongly support efforts to save lives through research.

We believe embryonic stem cell research is consistent with the pro-family ideals of the Republican Party. Every family should be able to make the best healthcare decisions for their family and every scientist and Nobel Laureate we have spoken to believes embryonic stem cell research holds the most promise to enable them to do so. Please do not hesitate to contact us or Elizabeth Wenk with Rep. Castle (5-4165) for more information.

Sincerely,

Mike Castle

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Charlie Bass

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Mark Kirk

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Nancy Johnson

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